



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Chief Administrative Officer
Director of Parks and Recreation
Fire Chief

At its meeting held April 6, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

“Due to continuing fiscal and management issues with the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Los Angeles County Lake Lifeguards have requested to be transferred to the Los Angeles County Fire Department. Several years ago the Ocean Lifeguards were transferred from the Department of Beaches and Harbors to the Fire Department. That was a positive move and the relationship has worked out very well.

“The Fire Department’s organizational structure as a public protection agency is more suitable to manage the Lake Lifeguard operations. Transferring the Lake Lifeguards to the Fire Department will provide for better coordination between the Lake Lifeguards who are the first responders to many incidents within the parks and the fire fighters and paramedics who arrive on scene to assist.

“The Lake Lifeguards perform essential functions; not only do they help keep the lake areas clean and safe, they provide valuable life safety services. Along with lifesaving duties, the Lake Lifeguards have the responsibility of enforcing State boating laws and fish and game regulations, as well as performing vessel accident investigations and vessel rescue.

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“ I therefore recommend that the Board direct the Fire Chief, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Chief Administrative Officer, the Auditor-Controller, and the Director of Personnel to:

1. Transfer the Los Angeles County Lake Lifeguards to the Los Angeles County Fire Department effective July 1, 2004;
2. Annually transfer the funding for the cost of the Lake Lifeguards to the Fire Special District from the General Fund;
3. Coordinate efforts to address any operational and fiscal issues before the transfer is final so that a seamless transfer and subsequent operation occurs; and
4. Provide the Board with monthly updates on the progress of the transfer.”

Timothy Gallagher, Director of Parks and Recreation, P. Michael Freeman, Los Angeles County Fire Chief, Derek Elleri, Hugo Maldonado, Peter Moore, Nancy Rigg, Marc Allen, and Tracy Hild, representing the Los Angeles County Lake Lifeguard Association addressed the Board.

After discussion, Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“The Lake Lifeguards provide an important public safety component in this County. The operational, management and fiscal issues outlined in the Chief Administrative Officer’s attached report need to be evaluated with further detail.

”I therefore recommend if this Board is unwilling to authorize the transfer of the Lake Lifeguards from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Fire Department today, the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer, the Fire Chief, the Director of Parks and Recreation, the Director of Personnel, along with the Lake Lifeguard Association to meet on a weekly basis to specifically define the challenges associated with a transfer of the Lake Lifeguards to the Fire Department. The first meeting should consist of each Department providing a detailed list of issues and concerns regarding the transfer. The list should also be submitted to this Board. The Departments need to work together to determine what can be done to mitigate the concerns outlined by each agency. I further recommend that biweekly reports be submitted to this Board with the final report due by June 18, 2004.”

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After further discussion, on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board deferred discussion of the proposed transfer of lake lifeguards from the Department of Parks and Recreation to the Fire Department to Budget Deliberations scheduled for June 21, 2004; and instructed the Chief Administrative Officer, in conjunction with the Fire Chief and Director of Parks and Recreation, to report on the merits of such a move along with a cost analysis, a definition of the duties of the lake lifeguards if transferred to the Fire Department, and how the move will affect pool lifeguards.

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Attachment

Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- County Counsel
- Auditor-Controller
- Director of Personnel